AN ANZAC OF THE LAST WAR, HE LEADS THE ANZACS IN THIS

LIEUT. GENERAL SIR THOMAS BLAMEY, who has been appointed Deputy Commander-in-Chief for the Middle East, was Chief of Staff of the Australian Corps in 1918, at the youthful age of 34. During his four years' service in the last war he was mentioned seven times in dispatches and won the D.S.O. in 1917. In 1938 he was Controller General of Recruiting in Australia; two years later he was in command of the Australian Forces in Egypt and his men formed the spearhead of Wavell's attack across the Western Desert. In announcing General Blamey's new appointment in a broadcast to Australia, Mr. Menzies, the Commonwealth Premier, spoke of his "very skilled and gallant services." *Photo, Associated Press*

How Britons and Anzacs Fought in Greece

Driven ever backward by the overwhelming hordes of Hitler's war machine, the Forces of the Empire gave most gallant and resolute support to their Greek allies. Below we give an account of the fierce rearguard actions in which Anzacs and Britons, fighting side by side, wrote fresh and never-to-be-forgotten pages in the Empire's annals.

WHEN the Germans, taking advantage of the fatal gap which had developed between the Yugoslavs and the Greeks, pushed south from Monastir across the frontier into Greece, they were opposed by a British armoured force. Although the British were outnumbered by 20 to one, they put up a resolute defence and inflicted the most severe punishment on the Adolf Hitler Division, which constituted the Nazi van. Retreating in good order, they reached a mountain pass to the south of Florina; here the defence was taken over by British infantry while the armoured units passed through to the rear. For 27 hours a furious battle raged as the Germans strove to eject the British from their positions. At length, after a tremendous artillery bombardment—the Germans were now using a new gun of 105 cm.—supported by incessant dive-bombing attacks and an almost continuous onslaught by wave after wave of infantry, the British were compelled to withdraw as far as Kozani, where they again turned at bay.

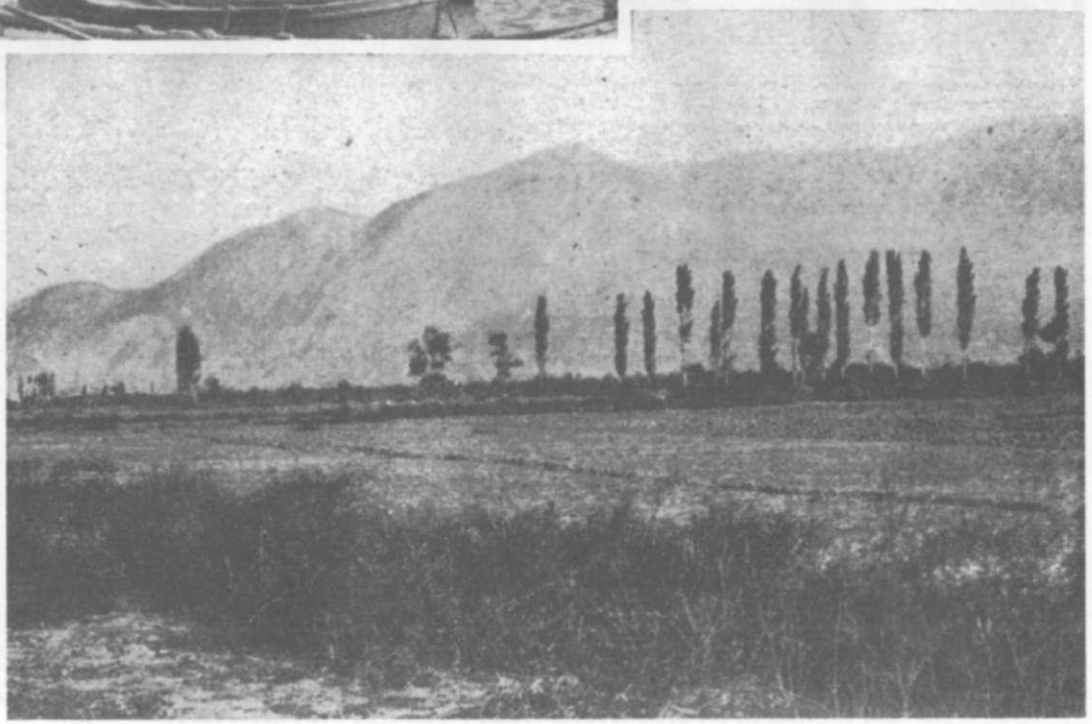
Here the Australians came into action, and from their gun pits cut in the side of the mountain played havoc with the enemy hordes. "From the mountains covering the pass," wrote an Australian correspondent in "The Times," "Australian big guns pounded day and night at the German troops' transport positions below. Machine-guns were in battle across the one flat strip of land in World War style, and all the time the German infantry were being mown down in wave after wave, until the Flanders poppies in the field looked dull beside the red earth which these men embraced now." For four hours the battle raged at the entrance to the Kozani pass, and it continued as the Australians fell back, bitterly contesting every foot of the way. One Australian unit, we are told, hung on to their position in the heights until they were 20 miles behind the German lines; yet they fought their way back to their comrades.

Then a fresh stand was made on a bridge over the Haliakmon (Vistritsa), to the west of Mount Olympus. "I would not have believed it," said a young Australian machine-gunner to "The Times" correspondent. "They came up the side of the road like flies, shouting something. We were giving it to them from all sides, and they went down like you see in the movies. It was just like a movie."

For some days it had been realized that it was impossible to hold the line which rested on the Pindus mountains and Mount Olympus—more particularly when the Germans thrust through the Metsovo pass and took the Greeks holding the left flank in the rear. "In face of increasing pressure by German forces which are daily being reinforced," said a communiqué issued by British G.H.Q. in the Middle East on April 18, "Greek and Imperial forces on the northern front are gradually withdrawing to a shorter line of defence." More detailed was the story given in a bulletin issued by the Greek Press Ministry on April 20. After stating that along the whole line of the British and Greek fronts the Germans were still attacking fiercely, the bulletin went on to say that the Allied line, although it had been modified at some points at the initiative of the defenders, remained unbroken, and all the violent efforts by the enemy to force a decisive and immediate issue had failed.

"The German losses are enormous. The Nazis are bringing up more and more reinforcements of mechanized units, infantry, and aircraft. But in spite of all their efforts, the British and Greeks fight like lions, still holding their positions." Advancing in waves, the Germans attempted to force the passes at all costs. They failed, and paid dearly for their failure. In the Olympus area the Germans continued to sacrifice the lives of their soldiers by the thousand, without being able to break through. "The heroic exploits of our allies," went on the bulletin, "the Australians and New Zealanders, are weaving new legends round the slopes of Mount Olympus."

But at length the line which pivoted on Olympus had to be abandoned, and the Allies fell back across the plain of Thessaly, and took up new positions south of Larisa. The new line was shorter and easier to hold,



Volo, above, which the Germans claimed to have reached on April 22, 1941, stands on an inlet of the Aegean Sea and is the chief port of Thessaly. Right, is the pass of Thermopylae, around which Imperial troops put up a heroic resistance.
Photos, Fox and E.N.A.

'They Wove New Legends Round Mt. Olympus'

This map shows the approximate lines held by the Allied forces in Greece on April 17, 18, 21 and 23, 1941, during the masterly withdrawal from the Mt. Olympus line to the new position near Thermopylae. This line was in turn abandoned, and the Nazis entered Athens on April 27. *Specially drawn for* THE WAR ILLUSTRATED *by Felix Gardon*

stretching across the mountain ranges where our big guns were already in position. To it struggled back the Australians and New Zealanders, closely followed by the enemy tanks. At Larisa a body of the Anzacs was surrounded by the German mechanized forces. Some of the enemy strove to cut them off, but the British and Imperial troops turned and fought their way through the streets out of the town. "The fighting was terrific," said a B.U.P. war correspondent. "Not only were the Germans using their tanks where they could, but their infantry were roaming the town with tommy-guns, lying in wait for the British and Imperial troops at the street corners. All round the defenders the town was burning, having been set on fire through the repeated bombings from the air, and through this a few of our troops fought their way out."

Of German origin, this photograph purports to show a German anti-tank gun in action in the Balkans. Enemy tanks are approaching under cover of smoke. *Photo, Keystone*

Here is another picture of the retreat drawn by the same correspondent. "I watched lines of British infantry and artillery and munitions manoeuvre along the mountain roads or along tracks by the sea shore. Every path of the convoys wound along like a snake as far as I could see, throwing up dust which covered the steel-helmeted Aussies and New Zealanders with grey powder. Many of the troops had just left the line after bitter fighting. They lay sprawled out on top of their kit, piled on the lorries. When they could they slept under the warm sun. By them flashed dispatch riders and staff cars, taking 'brass hats' up the line. Tanks lumbered along at a fair speed, while the more nippy Bren-gun carriers moved quickly over the mountain terrain."

Only too often the enemy pilots had it all their own way. If only we had a hundred more Hurricanes, cabled the B.U.P. correspondent, they would give us a margin to break the enemy's domination of the air. But not only in the air were the enemy numerically superior. "The British forces are outnumbered," wrote "The Times" Australian correspondent. "It has been the same since the German push started. More tanks, guns, aeroplanes, men. If the British had equal, or even half, their strength here in men and aeroplanes, this would have been a different story."

Now it was that Lieut.-Gen. Sir Thomas Blamey, General Wavell's deputy and the Anzac G.O.C., issued an Order of the Day, in which, after a reference to the magnificent way in which the Anzac corps and attached troops had carried out the withdrawal, he declared that "with strong hearts, energy and determination on the part of every officer and man, we can hold this position. I call on every Anzac to set his teeth and to be worthy of his fathers." But it was not to be. Against the thin khaki line the Germans flung fresh masses of infantry, dive bombers, tanks. . . . On April 25—Anzac Day, anniversary of the landing of the first Anzacs on Gallipoli in 1915 — the Germans were able to claim that the pass of Thermopylae had been taken by a pincer attack. Nor had it been intended that the new line should be held for more than a brief space, just sufficient space to enable the main body of British and Imperial troops to complete their withdrawal from the Greek mainland. The Greek army on the left had been crushed into capitulation. The German bombers, operating from aerodromes only 20 minutes' flying time away, were smashing the Greek towns and ports. At 9.25 on the following morning (Sunday, April 27) the last British resistance was brushed aside or overcome by Hitler's mechanized hordes, and the swastika, floating above the Acropolis, looked down on the German tanks thundering through the streets of Athens.

The Greeks Fought Nobly to the End

After putting up a tremendous fight against odds which might well have appalled a people far more numerous, far more powerful, gallant little Greece was at last overwhelmed by the armies sent against her by the two empires of the Axis. Here is an account of the concluding phase of a campaign which may well rank in history as amongst the most glorious ever fought by a little nation.

FOLLOWING the collapse of the Yugoslav resistance in South Serbia, the Germans poured through the Monastir Gap into Greece in a flood of men and mechanized armament hardly to be withstood. The Greeks put up a hard and bitter resistance, but every effort was made by strong German mechanized forces to break through their defences and to separate them from their allies, the Forces of the Empire, who were holding the right flank of a line pivoted on Mount Olympus. Again and again the Greeks managed to extricate themselves, but only at the price of retreat all along the line.

During the week-end that followed the German pressure increased. British rearguards were driven from Mount Olympus, and the Nazi tanks broke through to the plain of Thessaly. West of the Pindus mountains the Greeks continued their withdrawal; and in Albania, too, the Italians were able to claim a considerable advance—although in this case it was achieved not by hard fighting but because the Greeks had made a strategic withdrawal. Then on April 21 German forces pushed their way across the Pindus, through the pass of Metsovo, thus threatening to take in the rear the Greek divisions still holding on tenaciously to the Albanian front. Attacked from two sides, the Greeks again withdrew; yet even now they turned time and again and bloodily repulsed Mussolini's troops. Italian war correspondents described the Greek resistance as exceptionally stubborn. The Greeks, they said, made clever use of the ground and their well-prepared defences. Furthermore, their rearguards systematically destroyed the roads and bridges as they withdrew, so that the Italian triumph was won only by tremendous efforts and sacrifices.

The passage of the Metsovo Pass proved to be decisive. Till then the Greek armies of Epirus and Western Macedonia were withdrawing in quite good order before the Italians. Now, however, this new German thrust separated them from their allies to the south and east, and made their position hazardous in the extreme. Moreover, the retreating columns were also exposed to constant assault from the air. "We were bombed continuously throughout the day," said a Greek soldier. "We had only one or two roads on which to withdraw to our new positions. Waves of German bombers ranged up and down, machine-gunning and bombing until the roads were unusable." At last the Greeks could endure no more, and what was left of the army in Epirus and Macedonia opened up negotiations for an armistice.

"In the course of attacks by German forces deep into the flank of the Greek Northern Army," read an announcement made by the German High Command on April 23, "capitulations of a local character and offers for an armistice were addressed to the Commander of the 12th German Army. Yesterday a Greek deputation submitted an offer to lay down arms to the Commander of the Italian 11th Army in the Epirus sector. The entire Greek Northern and Epirus Army, hemmed in by the Italian armed forces from the north and by the German troops from the east, and cut off from its rear communications, has capitulated."

The armistice was concluded in the mountain villa near Salonika which had been made the headquarters of Field-Marshal von List's staff. It was signed for the Greeks by General Tsolakoglu, for the Germans by General Jodl, and for the Italians by Lieut.-General Ferrero; it came into force at 6 p.m. on April 23. Though their surrender was unconditional, the valour of the Greek troops was recognized by the Germans, who agreed to their officers keeping their swords and equipment. It was also stated that, as soon as military operations in continental Greece and the Ionian Islands had been concluded, the question of releasing the prisoners would be taken in hand.

News of the capitulation was given by the King of the Hellenes to his people in a message telling them of his decision to leave Athens—with his brother, the heir to the throne, and the lawful Government—and proceed to Crete, which henceforth would contain the nation's capital (*see* inset).

On the same day M. Tsouderos, the Greek Premier, attributed the capitulation of the Epirus Army to "fatigue brought about by six months' unequal but victorious struggle."

But surely no excuse was needed for the Greek surrender; no shadow of reproach could rest upon that gallant little people. Right to the end the voice of liberty spoke from Athens. "Greeks, stand firm," came the broadcast on Saturday night, April 26, "be each one proud and dignified . . . have Greece in your hearts; live inspired with the fire of her latest triumph and the glory of her army. Greece will live again and will be great because she fought honestly for a just cause and for freedom. Brothers! Have courage and patience. Be stout-hearted. We will overcome these hardships. We have been an honest nation and brave soldiers." Only a few hours later the Germans marched in.

KING GEORGE TO HIS PEOPLE

THE cruel destiny of war today compels us, we and the Heir to the Throne, as well as the lawful Government, to leave Athens and transfer the capital to Crete, whence we shall be able to continue the struggle . . .

Our will, and that of the Greek Government and people, called for the resistance to the end of the Greek forces, which, in spite of the unequal nature of the struggle, have fiercely opposed the enemy with the support of the British Forces that came to our aid . . . Though exhausted after six months of victorious and hard fighting against a much stronger enemy, our troops, who have written the most glorious pages of our military history, continued the struggle against the German offensive with unheard-of heroism.

We still do not know the real reasons why the Army of the Epirus signed an armistice with the enemy without our knowledge and without the cognizance of the General Commander-in-Chief and the Government. This signature in no way binds the free will of the nation, the King, and the Government, which is manifested in the continuation of the struggle with all the forces remaining to us, to safeguard our national interests . . .

Greeks, do not lose heart even in this sad hour of our history! I shall be always among you. The justice of our cause and God himself will help us by every means to win final victory in spite of the trials, the mourning, and the dangers suffered in common, and which until that hour we still have to suffer. Remain faithful to the idea of one country, united, indivisible, and free! Fortify your will! Oppose your Hellenic pride to the pressure of the enemy and his deceitful artifices! **Have courage, and better days will return! Long live the nation!**

—*Athens, April 23, 1941.*

Here are men of the Greek Army on the march in Albania, their capes wound around them as protection against the icy wind. Many of them, cut off from their rear communications by the Germans' eastward thrust, were forced to surrender. *Photo, Keystone*

Following the sudden death of M. Koryzis, the Greek premier (left), on April 18, 1941, King George called upon M. Tsouderos, the Greek Foreign Secretary (right), to take over the office. *Photos, Keystone and Associated Press*

The Lion of Judah Rampant Once More

AFTER the fall of Addis Ababa the Italian northern army retreated among the hills in face of the steady advance of Imperial forces and Abyssinian Patriots, and it was not until April 18 that they turned and made a stand before Dessie, in a strong defensive position astride the mountains where a semicircular mountain ridge commands the main motor road. In a battle described as the fiercest of the entire Abyssinian campaign, the Italians were completely routed by the South Africans; and from Nairobi on April 28 came the news that Dessie was ours.

Meanwhile General Wavell urged the Duke of Aosta to surrender, since he could accept no responsibility for protecting and succouring Italian nationals except in places already occupied by British forces. General Wavell's plea was made in the interests of humanity, for reports reached London that in the Jimma area of Abyssinia Italian native troops had got out of hand and were burning houses and looting ; in this area there were at that time no British troops.

HAILE SELASSIE, Emperor of Ethiopia, who was an exile for over five years after the Fascists overran his country in 1935, once more trod the soil of his native land when he crossed the frontier on January 15, 1941. After an arduous trek of two weeks from the Sudan with a train of camels, he made his headquarters 200 miles beyond the frontier. He is seen in the top photograph, at his camp, where he had a guard of a few officers and Patriot troops, some of whom, in the lower photograph, proudly display the Emperor's standard emblazoned with the Lion of Judah.

Photos, British Official : Crown Copyright

Now the Germans Swept on to Egypt

With disconcerting suddenness the situation in Libya was transformed when in a few days German mechanized formations recaptured what the Army of the Nile had taken as many weeks to capture. An account of the German advance to the frontier of Egypt follows below, together with some details of the British counter-measures.

WHEN Benghazi was captured on February 6, the Imperial Army of the Nile moved on beyond it to take El Agheila, some 130 miles to the south-west. There the advance was halted. The campaign in Libya was finished—and a very satisfactory conclusion it seemed to be from the British point of view, since the most fertile region of the Italian Empire in North Africa had been seized at a trifling cost and the Italian army of 150,000 men had been completely destroyed.

True, there were some who argued that General Wavell should have pushed on to Tripoli. But General Wavell's critics did not know what he knew—that the clouds of war were gathering thick and heavy above the mountains of the Balkans. Bulgaria signed a pact with Germany on March 2, and her adhesion to the Axis was considered to be a prelude to a German attack on Greece. The Greeks had deserved well of their allies; and so some of the finest regiments from the Army of the Nile and much of its armoured strength were conveyed across the sea to Greece. Others of General Wavell's men were dispatched to East Africa, there to aid General Cunningham in overcoming the stubborn resistance of the Italians at Keren and so bring the war to a conclusion before the April rains put a stop to military operations. Moreover, it may be argued that even if Wavell had pushed on to Tripoli, the situation might have been worse in North Africa, instead of better, when, as soon transpired, the Germans began to take a hand in the game.

First news of the arrival of German units in North Africa was contained in a message from Berlin stating that a German African Corps was in action. The military spokesmen in Cairo were inclined to dismiss the matter in a rather light-hearted way; it was not thought possible that the Nazis could have shipped across from Sicily any considerable number of troops, let alone armoured formations. Just a few light units—that was all that the military voice would allow the Nazis to have in Libya.

Soon, however, it was made plain that not just a few units but three divisions, and perhaps four, of German mechanized troops had been got across into Libya. *How* they got across was not too clear, but it was suggested that the transports had crossed from Sicily to Tunis at night, and then had voyaged through Tunisian waters, hugging the coast all the way.

MAJ.-GEN. ROMMEL, in command of the Nazi troops in Libya, is a personal friend of Hitler, with whom he is seen here. He rose from the ranks, became an officer in the last war, was on Hitler's staff during the invasion of Czechoslovakia and Poland and commanded a division in France. He is 49. *Photo, Keystone*

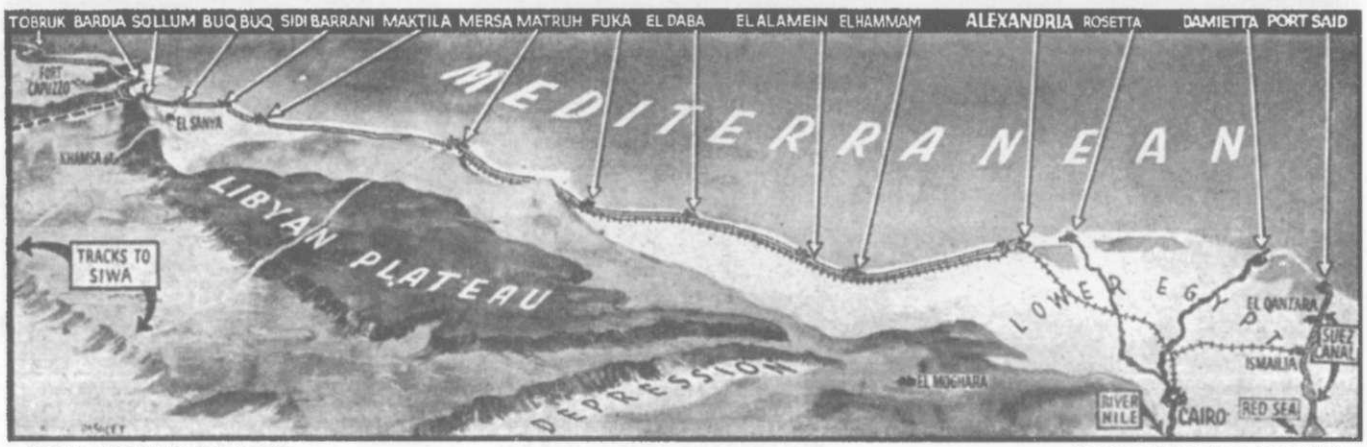
Soon after they arrived in Africa the Germans demonstrated their strength. Benghazi was evacuated by the British on April 3. Four days later Derna was occupied by the Germans; on April 12 they claimed to have occupied Bardia, and on April 14 they marched triumphantly into Fort Capuzzo and Sollum. Shortly afterwards their advanced units could claim that they were actually on Egyptian soil (see map below).

So swift, indeed, was the Nazi advance, so determined and so heavy, that the British seemed to have been caught unawares. Most of the conquerors of a few weeks before were in Greece or Abyssinia; apparently only a handful of troops and of mechanized units were available to meet the new onslaught. Very early the Germans had claimed that they had taken 2,000 prisoners, and Cairo admitted that the claim might well be true. Still more ominous was the fact that three British generals were among the prisoners—Neame, O'Connor and Gambier-Parry. The Germans also claimed to have put out of action a considerable number of our tanks and motor vehicles. Fortunately, the R.A.F., valiantly supported by their comrades in the South African Air Force, were able to maintain air supremacy over the African desert, and so the advancing Germans were made to pay heavily for their successes.

For a time things looked black, very black indeed; and it was generally realized that this was no mere diversion, intended to dissuade Wavell from dispatching his divisions to the Balkan front, but a large-scale offensive designed to cut the life-line of the British Empire which runs through Egypt and the Suez Canal. If Alexandria fell, then where in the Mediterranean would Admiral Cunningham's ships find harbour? The fall of Egypt and the evacuation of the Mediterranean suddenly loomed up as grim possibilities.

Then the situation became, if not better, at least no worse. Tobruk was invested by the Germans, but attempts to take it by storm were repulsed with heavy loss. A convoy of ships taking supplies and reinforcements to Libya was wiped out by the Navy between Sicily and Tripoli on April 15; Fort Capuzzo was heavily bombarded by the Navy's guns on April 16, and on April 21 Tripoli was fiercely bombarded from both the sea and the air. On the night of April 19-20 a British force landed near Bardia, and blew up an important bridge and destroyed a quantity of stores, particularly valuable to the enemy, although some 60 men were left behind as prisoners.

Meanwhile at Sollum the main German advance was halted. The Germans themselves said that the check was due more to natural difficulties than to British resistance; they pointed out the difficulty of supplying their troops when war material had first to be got to Libya, and then sent across the desert for hundreds of miles. Special tires had to be fitted on to the lorries carrying not only ammunition but fresh water, fuel for field kitchens, and enormous quantities of oil for 'planes, tanks, and other mechanized equipment. The Junkers 52s, it was stated, were maintaining rapid communication between the German G.H.Q. and the troops at the front, and the machines were stated to be standing up well to the sandstorms and the torrid climate. But, be the reason what it may, the Germans did not cross the Egyptian frontier in force until the evening of April 26.



FROM TOBRUK TO SUEZ

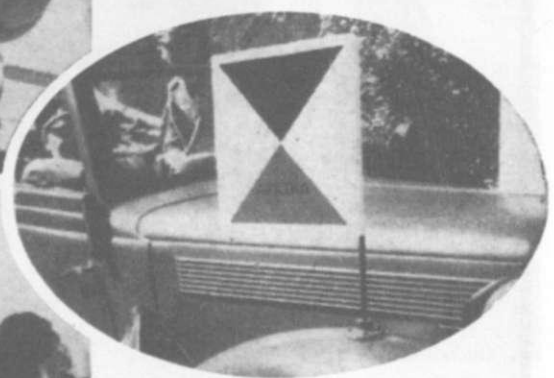
Courtesy of the "News Chronicle"

General Rommel's Men Arrive in Libya

Above, is one of the many barbed-wire entanglements erected by the Germans on the Libyan coast. Below, is a Nazi staff car bearing on the bonnet the sign of the Nazi African Corps.

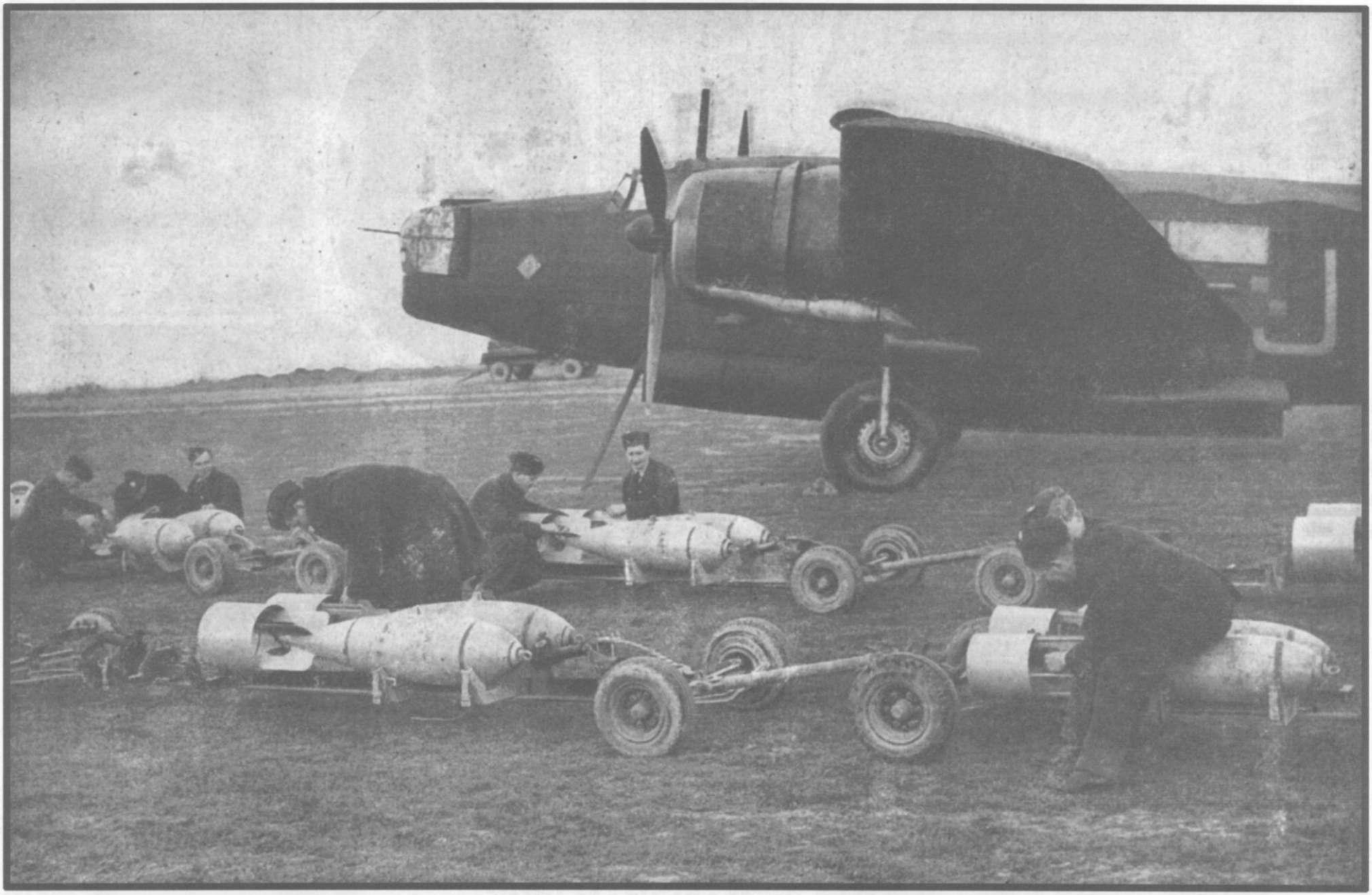
Much of the material that the Germans under General Rommel are using in Libya was transported by Junkers Ju 52/3 transport monoplanes. Above, one of them is being unloaded on its arrival. Reinforcements of men have also been sent to Libya by air. Diagrams of a troop-carrying 'plane are given in page 491, Vol. II, of this work.

Right, the crew of a tank in Libya are taking their midday meal sitting on the top of their landship. As the German lines lengthen food for the men and petrol for the machines will become an increasingly pressing problem.



In Libya the German airmen will have to meet conditions far different from those which they encounter in Europe, and it has been necessary to give them a course of instruction in the new tactics that the different climate renders necessary. Above, an officer is giving a lecture to some of the pilots on a Libyan airfield. Right, newly-arrived bombs are being examined.

Photos, Keystone

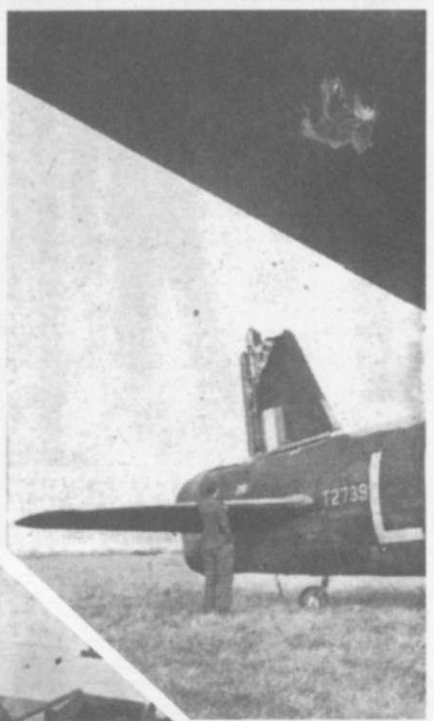


BOMBS FOR BERLIN are about to be loaded up on one of the great Wellington bombers with which the Royal Air Force has shown the Nazis that the British can give it as well as take it. The bombs are carried on to the airfield in trains of four-wheeled trucks drawn by a tractor, and it is not until they are close to the aircraft that the fuses are attached. Here the ground staff are giving that last deadly touch to the missiles. Recent raids on Berlin are believed to have surprised both officials and civilians by their effectiveness and severity Berlin is far less well prepared than London in the matter of A.R.P., and great efforts are now being made to make up deficiencies in equipment and shelters, for it is recognized that as the R.A.F. reaches parity with the Luftwaffe the attacks will become more and more intense.

Photo, Fox

They're *Most* Unpopular in Berlin!

WHEN the Battle of Britain was raging in the autumn of 1940 and the R.A.F. was taking an almost incredible toll of enemy machines, independent and impartial observers from the United States verified the British claims and declared that they were if anything an understatement. The same caution is observed by the R.A.F. in reporting its raids upon Germany. The crews of aircraft returning from bombing expeditions give their own accounts of their achievements, and must be prepared with substantial evidence of their claims before they can be officially recognized. That they have never over-estimated them is proved by the fact that information now filtering through from Germany tends to show that Berlin has suffered almost as much as London, while the new bombs which the R.A.F. has recently used in the raids have added a new terror to the lives of the Berliners.



Top photo: As the sun sets on an evening when visibility is good a Wellington bomber, is loading up for its night flight over military objectives in Germany and German-occupied countries. The Vickers-Wellington, a long range heavy bomber, is largely used for bombing distant targets.

The Naxis have been reluctant to release photographs showing the damage done to Berlin and other German cities by the R.A.F. That centre left has been received in Britain via America, and it is certain that what it shows might be repeated many hundreds of times.

Photos, Fox and Keystone

British bombers have been met over Germany by such intensive A.A. gunfire as is seen in page 375 as well as by night fighters. Above, a Wellington bomber shows the scars of battle on its wing and rudder. Its rear gunner shot down an enemy night fighter.

Pilots and crews of British bombers who have just returned from bombing military objectives in enemy territory are here giving an account of their achievements. They still wear their flying kit, but when they have given full details of their night's work they will go to a well-earned rest.

Photos, British Official: Crown Copyright

Twice in a Week They Rode the Storm

London's firemen and A.R.P. workers had their second gruelling test within a week on the night of April 19-20, 1941. Above, firemen who had been on duty all night enjoying a cup of tea. Right, a 65-year-old man rescued after being buried for 15 hours.
Photos, Keystone, and "News Chronicle." Exclusive to "THE WAR ILLUSTRATED."

After the two great raids on London of the week-ending April 19, many streets were littered with glass. Next morning unofficial workers were busy sweeping the pavements.

ON the nights of April 16-17 and April 19-20, 1941, London suffered raids worse than any since that of Dec. 29, 1940. Both lasted practically from dusk to dawn, and all night long Londoners heard the roar of enemy 'planes and the thunder of a terrific barrage punctuated by the sound of high explosive bombs. In the first raid eight hospitals, including Guy's and Chelsea Royal Hospital, were hit; St. George's (R.C.) Cathedral, Southwark, the City Temple, St. Andrew's, Holborn, and Chelsea Old Church were destroyed, and St. Paul's was damaged. Office buildings, blocks of flats, shops, restaurants and public houses were wrecked; cinemas and theatres were struck, and many streets were rendered impassable. In the second raid four hospitals, two museums, a town hall and a grammar school were among the buildings damaged or destroyed. In addition a great deal of destruction was done in residential districts. Among the many casualties were A.R.P. workers and members of the A.F.S.

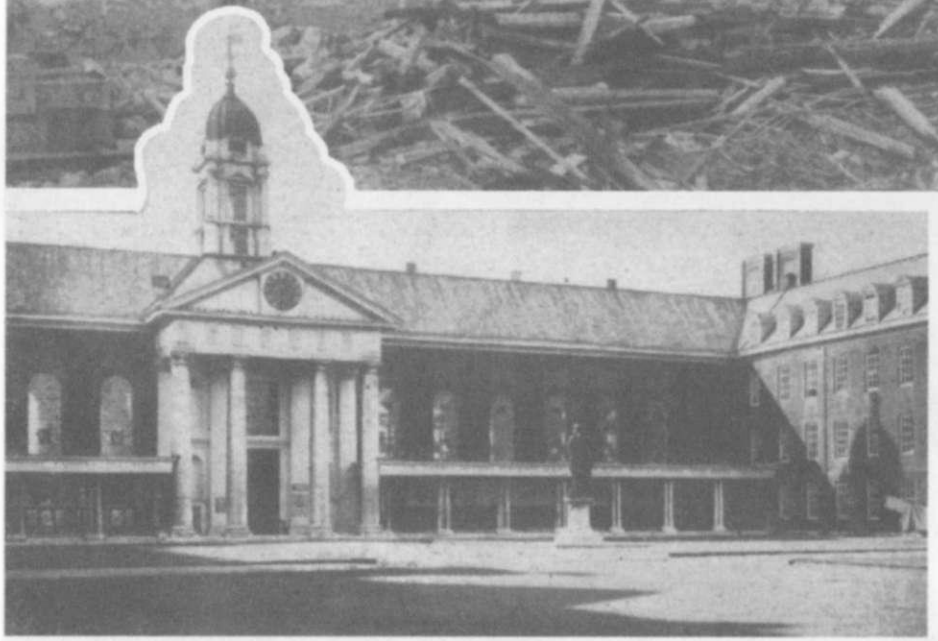
During the raid of April 16-17 six enemy bombers were brought down by night fighters and A.A. fire; one fell in Kensington and another at Wimbledon. Above, a soldier is examining the wreckage of one of them.

Left, two fire watchers are silhouetted against the sky, lit by the flames of many fires. Right, is the scene outside a famous London tobacco and pipe shop. Trade was carried on at a small table outside the wrecked premises and no one went away unsatisfied. *Photos, Associated Press, L.N.A., Planet News and G.P.U.*

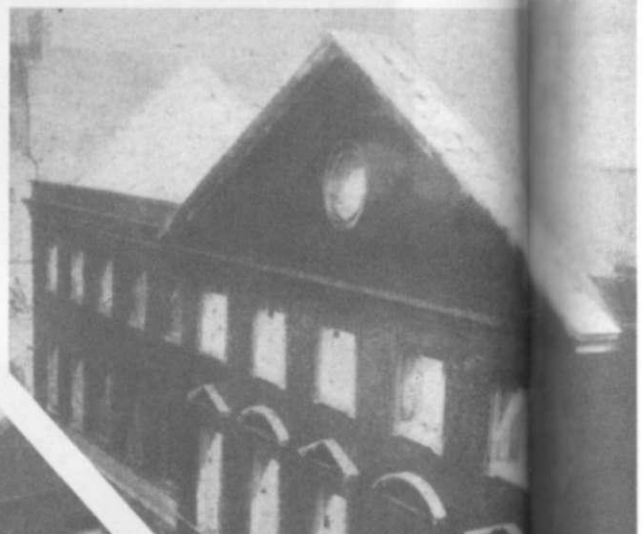
London Again a City of Dreadful Night

LONDON'S SKY was flame-lit on the night of April 16-17, 1941, when waves of Nazi bombers, estimated to number between 450 and 500, swept over the metropolis for many hours. This awe-inspiring photograph was taken from a high building at a time when several fires were raging in a comparatively small area. Thousands of high-explosive and more than 100,000 incendiary bombs were dropped, but London's defence services rose heroically to the occasion and none of the fires got out of control.
Photo, Keystone

London's Greatest Blitz: Famous Features of He Storied Streets As



The Royal Hospital, Chelsea, that beautiful Wren building ... the home of the red-coated military pensioners, received a direct ... the night of April 16-17. Above are the ruins of the infirmary win... the raid. Left, the forecourt before the raid.



Yugoslavia Crushed in 12 Days' Total War

Although resistance is still being offered by isolated bands of soldiery in the valleys of the interior, Yugoslavia is now in the Nazis' hands, and young King Peter has found a refuge in Jerusalem. The story of the 12 days' campaign is given below. A map showing the disposition of the Yugoslav armies when the battle opened will be found in page 410.

WHEN at dawn on April 6 Field-Marshal von List began his invasion of Yugoslavia he had at his disposal 25 divisions—perhaps a million men—including two *Panzer Divisionen*, each of some 6,000 men, with 500 tanks and a brigade of motorized infantry. This enormous host marched into Yugoslavia from every frontier at once, from Germany and Hungary, from Rumania and Bulgaria, until the Yugoslav armies were faced by a vast semicircle of battle.

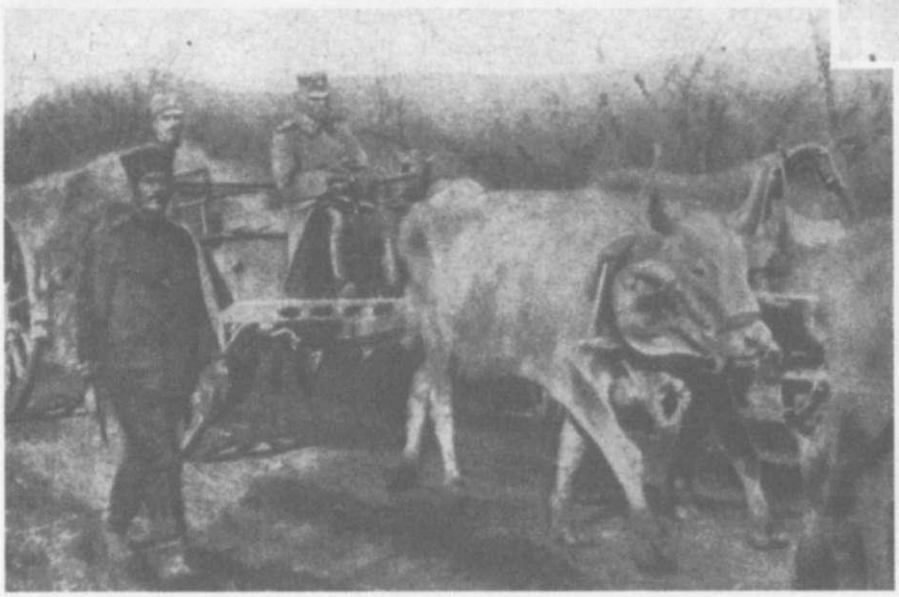
Before the war clouds actually broke it had been generally assumed that the main weight of the Nazi onslaught would fall on Yugoslavia's northern provinces; and it was in this region accordingly that the greater part of the Yugoslav armies had been assembled. But the Germans seldom do what is expected of them; they prefer what seems to be a difficult and unlikely path to one which to other eyes than theirs has the appearance of being more easy and obvious. So it was now.

Not in the north but in the south List made his principal attack, through the passes that lead from Bulgaria into the heart of Old Serbia. Each thrust was a punch packed with terrific power, of men and 'planes and mechanized armament. Dive-bombers led the way, coming over in wave after wave, pounding every village, every line of resistance, every gun emplacement and fort. They were followed by troop-carrying 'planes, again in their hundreds, that dropped behind the Yugoslav lines walking arsenals of determined men. Most of the paratroops were wiped out, but not before they had blasted into ruin the forts that constituted the Yugoslavs' main line of defence. Then up and down the valleys, over mountain tracks which heretofore had seen hardly any traffic beyond flocks and herds and lumbering ox-carts, great columns of tanks and motorized infantry made extraordinarily rapid progress. The light detachments, which were all that the Yugoslavs could muster to oppose them in this region of rugged glens, were crushed or swept away in hopeless rout.

At least four thrusts were delivered from Bulgaria. The most strikingly successful was that up the Strumitza valley to the highlands which had been granted to Yugoslavia after the last war because they dominated Bulgarian territory, but which were now overrun by the German troops in a few hours. Then, swiftly developing their advantage, the invaders swept to the left, some down the road to Doiran and others, somewhat farther to the west, down the Vardar valley, but both converging on Salonika. The great port fell on April 9; but even more important strategically was the outflanking of the Greek army which was making such a magnificent stand at the head of the Struma pass. At the same time some of the units which had made their way along the Strumitza turned *up* the Vardar valley and made straight for Skoplje (Uskub). At Veles, stormed by 200 tanks, they made contact with the units which had thrust their way from Bulgaria through the Bregalnitza pass. Yet a third thrust at Skoplje was delivered from Kyustendil, to the south-west of Sofia. Along these three roads poured a vast mass of German might, which shortly overwhelmed the Serbs in Skoplje, although the town was taken and retaken several times before the defenders' resistance was finally overcome. From Skoplje one German column rushed westward along the road to Tetovo with the object of linking up with the Italians in Albania, who were now being attacked by the Yugoslavs from the north as well as being contained by the Greeks in the south. Contact with the Italians was soon established; but even more important was the isolation of the Yugoslavs from their allies, the Greeks and British, operating in Greece to the south. In these operations the Germans claimed already to have taken 20,000 prisoners, including six generals, and a large number of guns and other war material.

Uskub, Veles and Tetovo were all occupied by the Germans on April 9, and on that same disastrous day Nish, too, fell to General von Kleist, whose divisions attacked it not only from the south but from the direction of Sofia, through Pirot on the east. Then from Nish a column plunged westwards across the mountains into Albania, to the rescue of the Italians who had been driven from Scutari.

On the next day, April 10, the German advance through South Serbia reached Bitolj (Monastir), and continued onwards through the Monastir Gap against the Greek positions at Florina. This advance was referred to in the first communiqué from British G.H.Q. in Greece, issued on the afternoon of April 11; it briefly stated that German forces advancing into northern Greece came into contact with the British and Imperial forces on April 10 (Thursday).



Peter II, above, accompanied by General Dusan Simovitch, Prime Minister and General Ilitch, Minister of War, leaves the Cathedral in Belgrade after attending a service of thanksgiving for his accession to the throne on March 28, 1941. The young King's grandfather, Peter I, was forced to retreat with his army in 1915, when the Serbs were overwhelmed by Austro-Hungarian forces; he is seen, left, seated dejectedly on an ox-drawn gun-carriage.

Photos, Ministry of Information, E.N.A.

With Nish, Uskub and Monastir, all three, in their hands, the Germans controlled all the lines of communication in southern Yugoslavia, and the Yugoslavs' third, fifth and sixth armies had been practically destroyed. Their comrades elsewhere had had no better fortune. The main (First) Yugoslav army, which had taken up its position behind and on either side of Belgrade, was outflanked by the Nazi columns which raced through Nish to Kragujevats, and was forced to fall back into the mountains. A special communiqué issued by the German High Command on

How Marshal List's Tanks Thrust to Victory

The photographs in this page are the result of a remarkable journalistic enterprise. They were taken during the Nazi advance into Yugoslavia, which began on April 6, 1941; they were then radioed to New York and brought by Clipper 'plane to England, where they arrived on April 24. Above, a Yugoslav outpost taken by a Panzer division has been set on fire by the troops holding it. Left, a Yugoslav soldier, taken prisoner, still bears himself proudly. Right, other prisoners, overwhelmed by huge odds, lay down their arms. Below, German tanks advancing. The map shows the principal stages of the campaign.

Map by courtesy of "Time & Tide"; photos, Keystone

Sunday, April 13, stated that "German troops, commanded by General von Kleist, occupied the Serbian capital and fortress of Belgrade from the south at dawn today." This followed the penetration of the city from the north across the Danube on Saturday afternoon by a small detachment of the S.S. division, commanded by Captain Klingenberger. The Yugoslav Government retired to Sarajevo, capital of the province of Bosnia and the headquarters of the Yugoslavs' Second Army, which was now flung into the battle. To little avail, however. Sarajevo itself was mercilessly bombed by the Luftwaffe, and on April 16 the Germans claimed the fall of the town and the capitulation of what was left of the Second Army. Some 50,000 men and eight generals had been taken by one German division, boasted Berlin radio; "the roads," it went on, "present a picture of a complete military rout. They are strewn with abandoned and broken-down tanks, as well as rifles and machine-guns."

Sarajevo's fall in effect marked the end of organized resistance in Yugoslavia. All the northern parts of the country, which had been evacuated since they were so obviously indefensible, had been overrun. The Italians, attacking from the west, had occupied Ljubljana, and, pushing down the Dalmatian coast, had seized town after town in an almost uninterrupted progress; Split fell to them on April 16. On April 11 German troops under Colonel Baron von Weichs forced the passage of the river Drava, and armoured troops captured the Croat capital of Zagreb; so rapid and overwhelming was the German advance that the Serbian Fourth Army was soon broken. On the same day Hungarian troops marched into the territory between the Danube and the Tisza, and on April 12 occupied Novisad.

In a communiqué issued on April 16 the Germans declared that the remnants of the Yugoslav Army were on the verge of disintegration. Then at 11 o'clock on the night of April 17 the official German news agency issued this statement: "All the Yugoslav armed forces which have not been disarmed before laid down their arms unconditionally at nine o'clock tonight. The capitulation comes into force at 12 noon tomorrow."

Ups and Downs in the Battle of the Atlantic

Against the deadly U-boat menace our destroyers, which are among the hardest worked of any class of vessel afloat, do magnificent work. Above, depth charges ready for release over the stern of a destroyer. Left, the deck of a destroyer seen from the crow's nest.

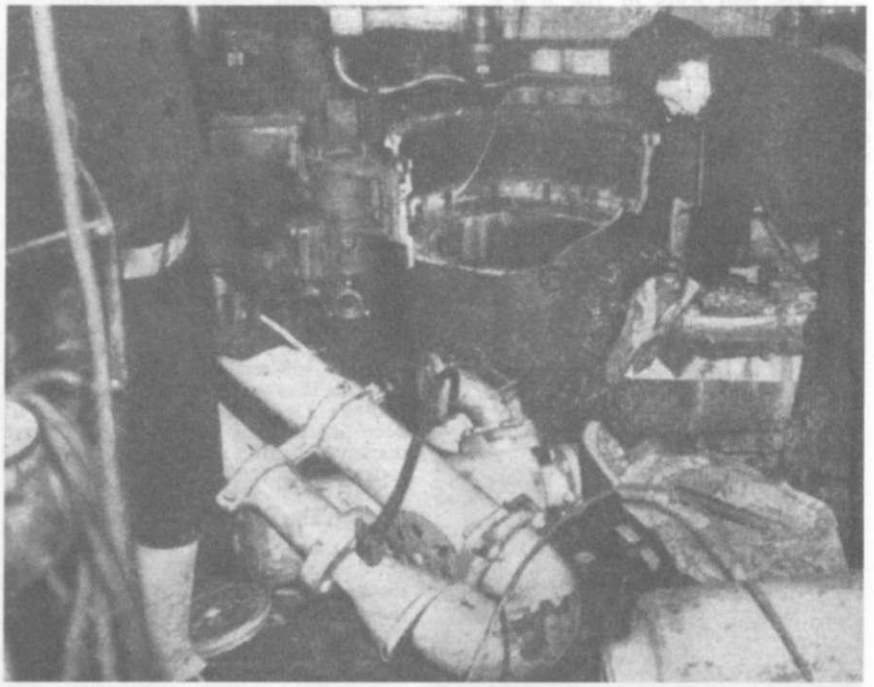
Captain Schepke, German U-boat ace (above), went down with the U 100 when she was sunk by our Navy. The map, right, shows the threat to our communications in N. and S. Atlantic should Hitler gain control in Spain and at Dakar.

DESCRIBING in a speech at Tottenham on April 20, 1941, the progress of the Battle of the Atlantic, Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, said :

"This battle has its ups and downs, but I can assure you that neither the U-boats nor the Germans' long-range aircraft are having it all their own way. We continue to take a toll of both, and as the strength of cooperation of the Navy with the Coastal Command increases, and as the number of escorting destroyers and corvettes expands, that toll of the enemy will increase until the Battle of the Atlantic is won."

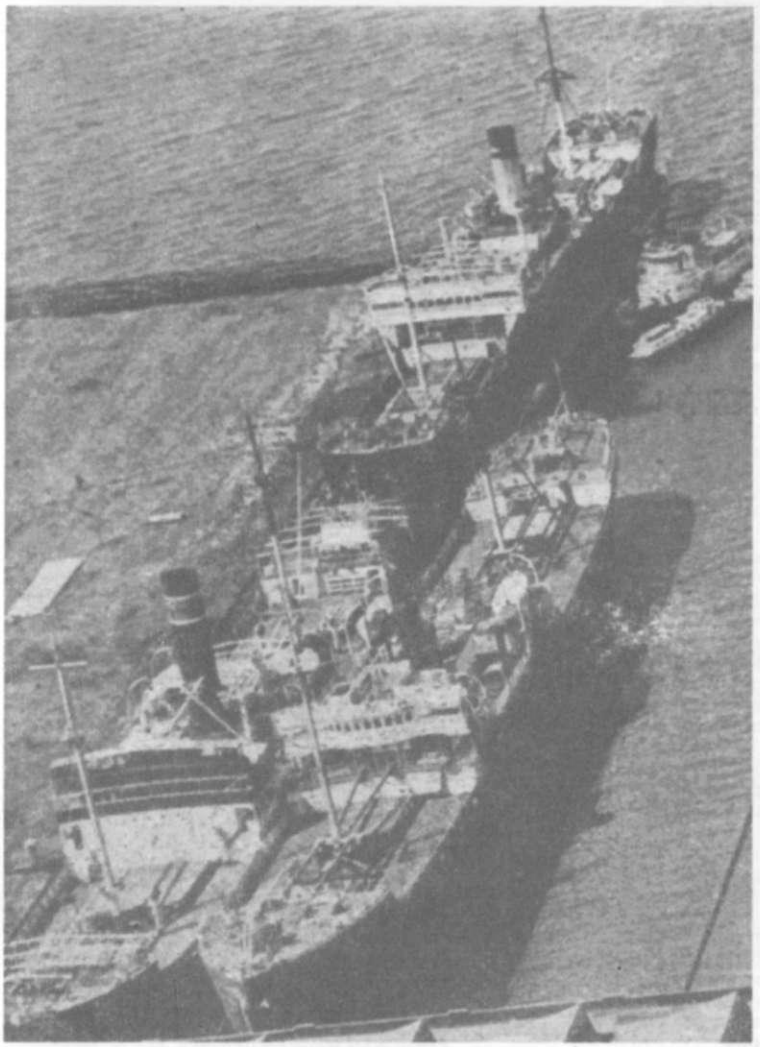
Members of the crews of British ships sunk by the German battleships Gneisenau and Scharnhorst are seen after landing at Brest. *Photos, Planet News, Associated Press and G.P.U.*

America Knows How to Deal with Sabotage



A lieutenant of the U.S.A. Coast Guard, left, is examining the propeller shaft of the 5,000-ton Italian liner Ada O., which was partially sawn through. Right, a coast-guard is investigating damage done to the Italian S.S. Alberta, lying at Port Newark, New Jersey. Below are three Italian ships seized in Philadelphia harbour to prevent sabotage. Top, the Mar Glauco; bottom, left to right, the Santa Rosa and the Antoinetta. *Photos, Wide World, Planet News and Associated Press*

AT the end of March 1941 the U.S.A. Government discovered that the crews of five Italian ships lying at New Orleans and Newark had attempted to damage the machinery. Mr. Morgenthau, Secretary to the Treasury, immediately ordered the Coast Guard to seize and examine 27 Italian ships in American ports to prevent any further acts of this nature. The motive of the sabotage was not clear, but it was probably due either to instructions from Rome or to the fear of the crews that they might be ordered to put to sea. The Axis Powers made a protest to the U.S.A. Government against the seizures, but this did not affect in the slightest the American attitude. The lead of the United States in this matter was soon followed by other American nations.



Strikes at U.S.A. armament factories have caused delay in arms output. Above, outside a plant in Milwaukee a disturbance has arisen and a motor-car has been overturned and wrecked by the strikers as they clashed with the police.

Our Searchlight on the War

Eyes and Ears of the R.A.F.

IN future, by approval of the King, the Observer Corps is to be known as the Royal Observer Corps, in recognition of valuable services rendered over a number of years. The Corps is a civilian organization consisting of some 30,000 watchers, all volunteers, most of whom do this work of 'plane-spotting in their spare time. There are observer centres over the entire country, each

THE CHIEF OBSERVER at an outlying post of the Observer Corps telephones to Headquarters news of the arrival and course of a hostile 'plane. *Sport & General*

controlling a number of posts, some in very isolated parts of the area. At these posts a day and night watch is kept for sight or sound of aircraft. Every aeroplane, whether hostile or not, is subjected to careful scrutiny. If it is an enemy the alarm is quickly given by telephone to headquarters, and the course of the aircraft is plotted by means of a special instrument. The Fighter Command, acting on this information, sends up its 'planes to meet the raider. If the night shift of Observers are made aware by their sound locator of the presence of an aircraft they determine its position and inform the searchlight unit, which speedily picks it up. Then the A.A. batteries come into action, and one more raider has run the gauntlet of Britain's defences all set in motion by the lonely and devoted civilian watchers in their far-flung outposts.

Salvage Great and Small

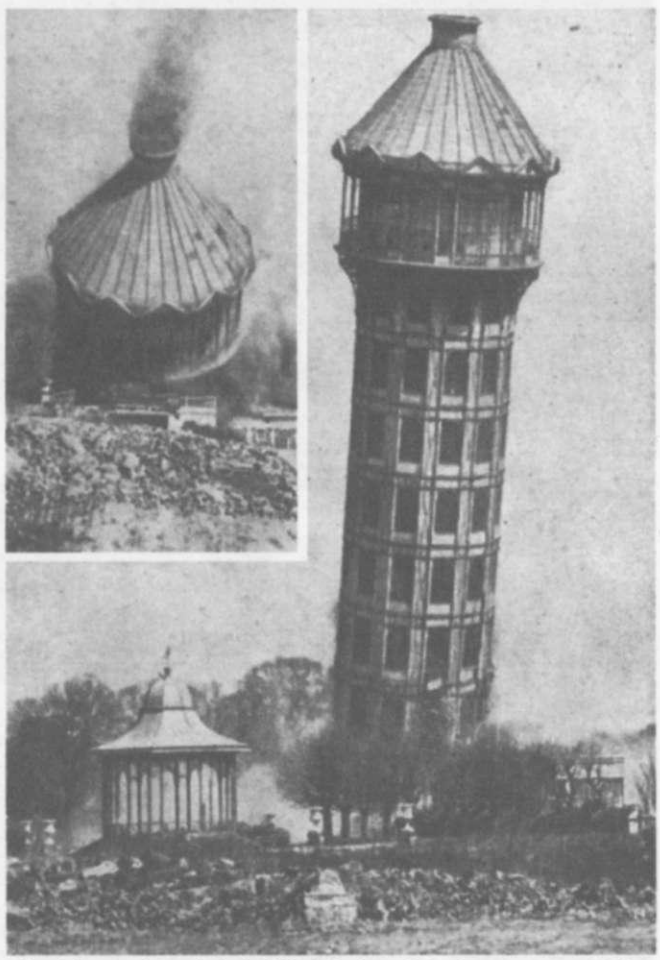
BOMBED buildings are furnishing many tons of steel scrap which will be melted down to provide new war weapons. But minor raid debris is also being put to good use by at least one group of workers whose skill and ingenuity are only equalled by their sympathetic understanding. The staff of Fulham A.R.P. depot have become toy-makers in their spare time. Answering an appeal made some six weeks ago by the Nursery Schools Association on behalf of evacuated children who have nothing to play with, they set to work to convert valueless odds and ends from the dumps into dolls' cradles, horses and carts, trains, ships and aircraft, as well as small-size chairs and tables for the children who would otherwise have nothing but the floor on which to sit and to play. Nurses at the First Aid Post attached to the depot have scrounged bomb-damaged bed linen, and with this have equipped the toy beds that will soon delight the eyes of little children in the reception areas.

Help from U.S. Doctors

THE British Red Cross recently sent a telegram to the sister society in America pleading for 1,000 doctors to serve in Britain with the R.A.M.C. and the Civilian Emergency Medical Service. Mr. Roosevelt, as President of the American Red Cross, launched the appeal, which had an instant response. Within 24 hours 200 doctors had applied. One flew to Washington to be among the first to volunteer. Another wired, " Bags packed. Ready to leave. When and where shall I report ? " For service with the R.A.M.C. the Red Cross asked for doctors under 40 years of age. Doctors up to 45 will be taken for Emergency Medical Service. Applicants are asked to serve for a minimum of one year and will retain their status as American citizens. They will be given British registration and parity with British medical men. It has been pointed out how vastly greater are the demands on the medical services in Britain today than in the last war.

The Nazis May Miss It

ONE more London landmark, the single remaining tower of the Crystal Palace, disappeared on April 16. The Palace, a glittering monument of the Victorian Age, constructed mainly of glass and iron, was originally the habitation of the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park, opened by Queen Victoria on May Day, 1851. It was designed by Joseph Paxton, gardener and architect, who used as model the conservatory he had designed for Chatsworth. The great water towers at either end were built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Removed and rebuilt on Sydenham Hill in 1852, the Palace became the home of great musical festivals, animal shows and educational exhibitions of many kinds, including a permanent one depicting the architecture of all ages and countries. There were rare plants in the indoor gardens, and in the elaborately laid out grounds, where the startled visitor encountered antediluvian monsters, the firework displays originated by Brock became famous. In 1914 the Palace was taken over by the Admiralty as a recruiting centre for the R.N.V.R. and other units, and over 125,000 men were trained there. In June, 1920, it became the property of the nation, and here, on June 9, King George V opened the Imperial War Museum, later removed to South Kensington. In 1936 the Palace caught fire, and all but the North Tower was burnt out. Now, because this was a prominent landmark for enemy airmen, and also on account of the valuable metal it will furnish, this gaunt survival of a peaceful and prosperous epoch was brought crashing down to earth in a matter of some ten seconds.



A mighty crash marked the fall of the last of the famous towers of the Crystal Palace. Above, the collapse begins ; inset, a cloud of dust marks the end. The tower was 250 feet high, weighed 1,500 tons, and is expected to yield about 840 tons of metal for munitions. *Photos, Wide World and Topical*

Girls in the Firing Line

GIRLS of the A.T.S. are now to be found behind the A.A. guns helping to fight the Battle of Britain. In their charge are the range-finders and predictor calculating machines, on the skilled use of which the accuracy of the gunfire largely depends. All these girls are mathematical experts who have taken a special course in range-finding and other scientific observations relating to predicted fire. Women may also be taking over the balloons, and the North Midlands area is to make the first experiment in this scheme. If it is successful large numbers of men will be released and replaced by girls of the W.A.A.F. As the work is arduous—it will include driving the winches and trailers and hauling on the ropes—only the strongest and fittest recruits will be accepted.

Bombs Ready for Rome

HIS Majesty's Government announced on April 18 that, in view of the German threats to bomb Athens and Cairo, it must be clearly understood that if either of these two cities were molested a systematic bombing of Rome would begin. Moreover, the Government was perfectly well aware that an Italian squadron was being held in readiness to drop captured British bombs upon the Vatican City should a British raid take place. As the strictest orders had been given that the utmost care must be taken to avoid any damage to the Vatican City, it was necessary to expose in advance this characteristic trick of the Italian Government. Rome's reaction to this disclosure was one of great annoyance, and the whole of the Axis radio and press embarked on a new campaign of vilification against Mr. Churchill.

Tangier (Now Spanish) Greets the Nazis

ANOTHER blow at French prestige in North Africa was struck by the Nazis when the swastika was run up over the Mendoubia, formerly the official residence of the Sultan of Morocco's representative in Tangier. The authority of the Mendoub was abrogated, and Dr. H. Noehring, who arrived with no fewer than 200 "assistants," took up his abode, as German Consul-General, in the ancient residence of the Sherifian representative evicted by the Spaniards under Axis pressure. More "assistants" will soon be on their way from Germany, and Nazi penetration of France's vast North African domain will thus be facilitated.

Axis Pressure on Spain manifested itself at the end of March when Germans in Tangier, the Spanish-dominated "international zone" in N. Africa opposite Gibraltar, took over the Mendoubia. Above, the new consul, Dr. H. Noehring (photo inset), entering the Consulate.

Posters hurriedly put up after the Nazis had entered the Mendoubia, from which the Mendoub, representative of the Sultan of Morocco in Tangier, had been evicted.

No enthusiasm can be seen on the faces of this crowd of Spaniards and Moors as they watch the Nazis' theatrical display outside the Mendoubia.

Right, Dr. Heberlein, Counsellor at the German Embassy in Madrid, shakes hands with Gen. Ponte, Commander of the Spanish troops in Morocco.

Photos, Associated Press

They Have Won Honours in Freedom's Cause

Sig. E. R. Savidge, R.N.V.R., **D.S.M.,** for displaying outstanding courage and devotion to duty on active service.

Lieut. H. West, bar to his **D.S.C.,** for great courage and conspicuous bravery on active service against the enemy.

Skipper Lieut. Grace, D.S.C., for displaying great courage in successfully bringing down enemy aircraft at sea.

Cmmdr. J. Bull, D.S.M., **D.S.C.,** for fine leadership and recovering from the sea an enemy mine for examination.

Capt. N. Rice, O.B.E., for saving his ship containing valuable cargo from attack by enemy submarine.

A.B. N. Stringer, D.S.M., for displaying outstanding courage and untiring devotion to duty on active service.

C.S.M. Davies, Cheshire Regt., **D.C.M.,** for displaying conspicuous courage and devotion to duty.

Mr. T. H. Newton, Home Guard, **B.E.M.,** for securing a mine and rendering it safe. Served with distinction in last war.

Pte. Goodwin, Gordon Highlanders, **M.M.,** for displaying outstanding courage, initiative and devotion to duty.

C.S.M. Shaw, Seaforth Highlanders, **D.C.M.,** for displaying conspicuous courage and fine leadership on active service.

Lieut. J. M. Muir, M.B., R.A.M.C., **D.S.O.,** for saving the lives of wounded at Sidi Barrani, though badly hurt himself.

Troop Sgt.-Maj. Shelton, Royal Artillery, **D.C.M.,** for displaying great courage and devotion to duty.

Sgt. A. Halfpenny, D.F.M., for successful flights over Germany and enemy - occupied country.

Sqdn.-Ldr. J. N. Dowland, G.C., for removing an enemy bomb from a steamship, and performing similar duty on a trawler.

Sgt. E. Barker, bar to his **D.F.M.,** for helping to destroy 12 enemy aeroplanes in a single afternoon.

Flight-Sgt. E. Thorn, bar to his **D.F.M.,** for destroying enemy aircraft. Sgt. Barker was his air gunner.

Sgt. D. McKay, D.F.M., for having shot down enemy 'planes. Credited with having destroyed 12-15 aircraft.

Pilot-Officer R. P. Stevens, D.F.C., for having shot down 2 Nazi night raiders in the London area.

Miss D. M. White, G.M., for rescuing an injured nurse from a first-aid post which had been badly bombed.

Mrs. M. Farr, of Portsmouth, **O.B.E.,** for protecting a patient at risk of her own life during an air raid.

Miss Meikle, R.A.F. Nursing Service, **R.R.C.,** for displaying great courage, gallantry and devotion to duty during raid.

Miss Wilson, R.A.F. Nursing Service, **R.R.C.,** for conspicuous bravery and outstanding qualities as a nurse in grave danger.

Sister I. Jones, of Swansea, **A.R.R.C.,** for displaying courage, gallantry and devotion to duty during enemy action.

Miss M. F. Thomas, Woolwich A.R.P. Casualty Service, **G.M.** for rescuing workers and 2 people in bombed house.

Aux. Fireman C. A. Reeves, G.M., for displaying coolness and conspicuous bravery in performance of his duties.

Commdr. A. N. G. Firebrace, R.N. (retd.), Chief Officer London Fire Brigade, **C.B.E.,** for leadership and devotion to duty.

Chief Officer W. Woods, Twickenham Fire Brigade, **G.M.,** for conspicuous courage during violent raids.

Maj. F. Jackson, London Fire Brigade, **M.B.E.,** for great courage and leadership in the course of severe raids.

Dist. Officer R. W. Greene, London Fire Service, **M.B.E.,** for courage, daring and devotion to duty in raids

Fireman B. Evans, O.B.E., for rescuing a comrade from blazing building in the course of a bombing attack.

Mr. G. Williams, Chelsea A.R.P., **O.B.E.,** for rescues from shelter menaced by fire.

Mr. H. F. Shimmings, Supt. Twickenham A.R.P., **G.M.,** for rescuing a woman trapped by debris.

Mr. G. W. Whitehurst, L.N.E.R., Hull, **G.M.,** for helping to rescue a wounded soldier.

Mr. A. Harrison, L.N.E.R., Hull, **G.M.,** for his work in assisting Mr. Whitehurst.

Air Cadet H. R. Smith, C.G.M., for rescuing a woman from bombed house.

Miss M. B. Haldane, of Glasgow, **M.B.E.,** for rescuing people from her ambulance in heavy raid.

I Was There! .... Eye Witness Stories of the War

I Saw the Germans Well Beaten at Tobruk

On April 12 German and Italian forces besieging Tobruk launched a series of attacks by tanks, aircraft and infantry, which were all beaten off. The following graphic account of some of these attacks was sent from inside Tobruk by John Yindrich, special correspondent of the British United Press.

UNDER cover of darkness on April 14 about 30 German tanks penetrated the wire defences of Tobruk from the direction of El Adem and advanced about a mile and a quarter inside the perimeter defences. Lorries carrying about 200 infantrymen followed them.

British tanks dashed across to meet the advancing German and Italian tanks. Firing started about 4 a.m., and an intelligence officer told me later that he had seen about 12 burning tanks.

Then, about 8.30 a.m., 30 big black German Junkers dive-bombers, escorted by Messerschmitts, staged the biggest raid on the perimeter defences as well as the town itself.

For over an hour they were flying over the semicircle of Tobruk and its defences. I saw eight in line dive-bomb the harbour and then swoop over the outer line of defences with their machine-guns blazing.

The infantrymen manning the machine-guns and Bren guns stood up to the attack wonderfully and brought down three of them. Hurricanes brought down two others in a series of whirling dogfights.

Two days ago German troops launched their first infantry attack against Tobruk in a duststorm so thick it was difficult to see a yard in front of your eyes.

Australian infantry and British artillerymen and machine-gunners, wearing celluloid eye shields to protect them from the grains that pierce every conceivable opening, strained their eyes to try and spot the enemy's movements. They remembered how a dust storm helped the British at Sidi Barrani.

While the dust storm was blowing not a single thing could be seen, but about 5 p.m. the wind dropped and the dust fog fell.

Then I saw about 800 German infantrymen get out of about 30 trucks and advance in close formation on the outer semicircle of defences from the direction of El Adem.

Our artillery laid down a heavy barrage to prevent their retreating, while machine-gunners opened a withering fire. In the words of a gunner: "We just mowed 'em down."

At the same time Blenheim bombers observed about 60 German tanks making formation about five miles to the south of the defences. The 'planes dive-bombed and machine-gunned them until they withdrew.

Twelve tanks moving towards the defences a little farther around the perimeter were dispersed by British artillery fire, while two other tanks sitting on the barbed wire near two machine-gun posts were also forced to withdraw.

I saw two wounded German pilots with bandages on their heads being taken to hospital in a lorry. Then lorry-loads of German prisoners, wearing the grey-green peaked cap with the German eagle, went by.

An Australian, a former commercial traveller from Sydney, told how he and five others of a patrol had routed 40 Germans and brought back one prisoner.

"We had repulsed the fifth attack on our post by 300 German infantrymen, supported by tanks, who got within 1,000 yards of our position," he said. "Then, about 10.30 p.m. we got word that about 40 Germans were inside the wire.

"I took about six men, so as not to weaken the post too much. We were under machine-gun fire all the time, so we went at the 'double' and then lay down about 100 yards from where they were.

"Our people behind us were blazing away over our heads when we tore into them with our bayonets. I got the shock of my life, because not one of them wanted to fight.

"It was only when I came to the fifth one that I found them showing any fight. He grabbed my rifle and pulled me down on top of him. There was another German coming up behind him, but my corporal saved my life.

"I used my rifle on several other German heads until it broke. Then I picked up a stone. The rest of the Germans, probably thinking it was a hand grenade, grovelled there, one shouting, "I'm a soldier of Germany, don't kill me!"

"Another was shouting, 'Peace, it is peace, s'il vous plaît!'

"I must have accounted for about 12 Germans. My opinion now is that when it comes to hand fighting the Germans are about on a par with the Italians.

"In a scrap where it's every man for himself they go to pieces. Perhaps it's because they're so well trained."

My Men Got Sick of Killing the Germans

German shock troops attempting to force a passage in a vital sector of the Mount Olympus front were beaten back with heavy losses by Anzac troops. These eye-witness stories was told by Australians and New Zealanders to a British United Press correspondent.

DESCRIBING how his small unit of machine-gunners and anti-tank gunners fought off repeated attacks by German shock troops, who used rubber boats, armoured cars and parachutists, the New Zealand officer said:

We thought we had a "cushy" post, defending a pass flanked by mountains, through which ran a river, skirted by a small road.

The Germans sent armoured cars to reconnoitre. Then at dawn next day they launched an attack with boats, which we could see dimly in the half-light.

We sank one boat after another, in spite of a barrage of covering fire from German armoured cars. After two hours the river was teeming with sunken boats, from which men were swimming.

Amazement at the absolute disregard of the Germans for their losses was expressed by the New Zealander, who continued:

My men got sick of killing. It was mass slaughter. We mowed down the boats as fast as they came, each with eight men.

Seeing they could not succeed in penetrating the sector along the river, the Germans next attacked from the west, using what appeared to be parachutists. They wore grey shorts and heavy grey jackets, and carried tommy-guns with terrific fire power.

Our position appeared to be in danger until my captain drew a bead on the leader of the enemy with an anti-tank machine-gun. He was a six-footer. He was struck fair in the chest, and went down like a ninepin.

Seeing their leader disintegrate from the waist up, the rest of the attackers, after hurling a barrage of grenades, withdrew, and we continued holding the position.

I was hit by a grenade splinter in the hand, which cut a tendon. I couldn't fire a gun, so I came in for treatment, but I told the boys I'd hurry back.

Australians who fought at Mount Olympus said:

We were walking and fighting for four days and nights. When the order came to withdraw, we obtained mules and loaded our guns on them.

We were often lost in the tracks of the

GERMAN LIGHT TANKS in this photograph, published in Germany on March 30, 1941, are returning to barracks in Libya. The Nazis are reported to have two armoured divisions in Libya, but, as the eye-witness's narrative in this page shows, heavy toll of them has been taken by British artillery and bombers of the R.A.F.

I WAS THERE!

desolate fastnesses of Mount Olympus, and we slept for an hour or two in the snow when we were too tired to go on. And we had just come from the desert.

We reached the pass near the railway by the sea to the east of Mount Olympus and fought with the Germans until nearly midnight the next night. Then we took up our position with New Zealanders.

We used our tommy-guns, while our anti-tank guns pumped at the Panzers. The enemy infantry were picked mountain troops. They crept along with tanks and tried to cross the river to our left, but got a terrific plastering from our machine-guns. Whenever one of the tanks was hit the infantry behind it hopped off pretty quickly.

In the afternoon we heard the rumble of tanks on our left flank. German engineers had blasted a way for the tanks over the wreck of a railway tunnel which our engineers had demolished.

The fighting went on all the afternoon and evening until we pulled out about 11 that night. We swung to the right and then to the left in an effort to stop the tanks. The New Zealanders manning the field guns and anti-tank guns did their stuff marvellously.

One tank went up like a foundry explosion. It seemed as if our shells went through their armour like cheese.

The mountain troops scrambled up the hillsides and we gave them everything we had. The blazing went on through the night. There was a hell of a din as the artillery on both sides smashed at each other.

The tanks were blowing up like small volcanoes, the machine-guns crackling and the other guns pouring a continuous chain of flame. The path was strewn with dead and dying, but the Australians and New Zealanders picked their way through. We carried the wounded to lorries, but most of our fellows had to keep marching.

In the Balkan war, as in the Battle of France, the Nazis made good use of their inflatable assault boats for the rapid crossing of streams and rivers. Above, German sappers are shown training with one of these boats ; a pontoon can be seen behind them. *Photo, Fox*

One lorry-load got bogged, so we moved the wounded to another lorry. That got bogged, too, and we lost our tracks in the darkness. A Greek, then a New Zealand colonel, led us out eventually.

Finally we made our way to Larissa. But we found the enemy had already taken it. We made a detour round the town, and began trekking south again. In the last part of the trek we saw three Hurricanes meet eighteen German 'planes. They shot down seven of them.

Another Australian said :

We thought Larissa was still in our hands. Suddenly we ran into an ambush. The streets were strewn with wreckage, the place was blazing and Germans seemed to be everywhere. Luckily we had our tommy-guns, and we blasted our way through as we advanced single file, sheltering in the ruins.

We Chased Nazis Over the Fields on My Tractor

A motor-tractor can be put to many uses, and here is the story of one which, while sedately engaged in ploughing, turned into a kind of tank and engaged in offensive operations against the enemy. It was told by J. Paterson of the Women's Land Army in "The Land Girl."

So often people ask me if it is not dull going up and down the same field all day long, and it is no use trying to explain. But last week adventure dropped on me out of the sky.

I was on the ground setting my plough, when a 'plane rushed into sight, coming at me over trees, very low and on fire. I just started, and then suddenly I saw the black crosses and realized it was a German, and that the cracklings I had heard a few seconds earlier were machine-guns ; and I remembered our old ploughman, who had been shot up the day before when ploughing with his team of white Polish horses. I wanted to creep under my friendly little red tractor, but instead of coming down in my fields the pilot must have seen the electricity pylons in it and lifted his 'plane on southwards.

I felt I must do something, so I unhitched the plough, put the tractor into top gear, and went as hard as I could across the next three fields ; as exciting as any fox hunt and nearly as fast. I was lucky in knowing gaps and gateways, and there were no queues ! I knew I must get to a lane which crossed our little railway line, and on the way I picked up a special constable and a Home Guard with his rifle, who perched on the tractor as best they could, holding on to me rather like the Gordon Highlanders holding the stirrups of the Scots Greys at Waterloo.

At the railway bridge we sighted our quarry down in a field just over the boundary of " our " land ; and on we chased, passing several other men on their way. We heard a big explosion, and when we got to the field there was the 'plane—a Junkers 88—blazing. Four A.F.S. men were already there, and other people came from all sides. Many Home Guards arrived, but not all fully uniformed ; and quite soon police, who quietly took charge and kept people away from the temptation of picking and stealing souvenirs.

But the Germans had disappeared—a woman had seen them—four men in uniform. Two small coverts were searched by the Home Guard without success, and then some of us were formed up in line to beat the big covert—armed and unarmed alternately—when suddenly we heard a whistle and a shout, and running round to the far side of the wood we saw the Germans, who had surrendered themselves to two farm hands : four fair boys rather like Norwegians, dazed by their own narrow escape from the death they were trying to bring to our people, and unsure of the treatment in store for them, but dignified and calm.

By this time we were quite a large crowd, about fifty people, and the police took their prisoners as quickly as possible to the road and their cars. I was sent back to guard the wreckage, shutting a lot of gates on the way, and when soldiers arrived I was saluted and dismissed. I started up my tractor and drove back at a more sedate pace and went on with my job. All that day and the next we were pestered by people wishful to see the wreckage ; apparently they had no jobs to do, and did not mind what harm they did to fences and crops in satisfying their idle curiosity.

Few Land Girls are likely to experience such an adventure as befell the one who describes her experiences in this page, but all lead a healthy life and are doing war work of vital importance. This one, once a commercial artist, now drives a tractor. *Photo, L.N.A.*

I WAS THERE!

I Was with London's A.R.P. that April Night

London was the objective of the German air raiders on April 16, when the capital suffered the heaviest bombing it had so far endured. Here are some extracts from the dramatic article in the "Daily Express" by William Hickey, who visited the scene of a big "incident" during the night.

"We hear they've hit the ——," said the news editor, naming a Big Building. "Could you hurry along there? It's apparently a pretty big incident."

They hadn't hit the Big Building. But it was certainly a big "incident." A hundred or more yards from it the air smelt charred; drifts of dark smoke began to obscure the tiaras of flares that hovered above us, as in some hellish pantomime or firework pageant.

As usual, all the burglar alarms had been set ringing; nothing would stop them for the rest of the night. Scores of shops were wrecked; as I got near the incident I had to step over doors and window-frames that had been hurled bodily into the road.

Wading through an ankle-deep porridge of glass and water, I looked at the slag heap that had, an hour earlier, been a block of —fortunately—empty offices. Less fortunately, one corner of it had been a pub: "there was usually 20 or 30 of 'em in there about that time," said a copper.

I was glad of living human company—glad when the A.R.P. people stopped me, took me to see their Incident Officer.

Half-sheltering in a ruined shop that was his office-for-the-moment (two blue lamps and a wooden flag mark it), he was a shadowy, lean, quickly-moving figure under a white tin hat. Henry, they called him. He used to make Savile Row suits. Decision and a clear head are needed. Henry had them. In the half-light of flame and smoke there were even forms to be filled up and signed.

Stretcher-parties were waiting. It would be many hours, perhaps daylight, before they could be used.

The men waiting made the usual simple cracks—"Just like old times" . . . "He ain't half cross with us tonight." They coughed a good deal in the acrid smoke. One had been gassed in the last war. "You all right, chum?" they asked him. "All right," he would gasp. "It's only me old complaint."

All this time, intermittently, more bombs were swishing down. As each fell, or as a 'plane sounded like diving, we stepped back a pace or two into the gaping shop, crouching instinctively, in unison, hardly needing to say, "Here's another." Again instinctively, with a protectiveness that might have been pathetically futile, the men would shield each others' bent shoulders with their arms. Twice, as we crouched, the blast—a foul, hot giant's breath—swept sighing through the shop, tore its way through glass at the far end.

A rosy, judgement-day glow shone down on us. Some of the men moved over the road to a darker place. "It's funny," said Henry, "when it's bright moonlight and they're overhead, you instinctively walk in the shadow. . . ."

It was time for the Incident Officer to go and look at some other incidents; wardens, sometimes girls, had turned up, panting but collected, to say, "Incident in —— St., between —— and —— Sts.," or "They want help badly round at —— Buildings."

His blue lamps, his flag, were moved to another street. We set off swiftly but circumspectly, skirting the buildings to dodge the tinkling shrapnel, pausing in doorways when we heard the death-whistle.

We looked in at several public shelters. None of these had been hit, nobody in them was worse than shaken. They all seemed to know Henry; the sight of him reassured them. "What's it like outside?" they would ask. "Oh, not so bad," he would lie.

For the raid's ferocity had been suddenly intensified.

Fires that had seemed quenched flared up again. New fires began in every quarter of the sky; they even lit up pinkly the balloons floating high above.

We turned a corner. Henry ran on quickly. Ahead was a tall house, nearly every window alight with a cosy, crackling, Christmasy flame.

His face was drawn, agonized, in the leaping light. "God!" he said. "That makes me feel bad. There's a lot of old ladies live in these chambers—retired nurses and such."

As good wardens do, the wardens of this district know pretty accurately how many people are sleeping in a building each night. Henry reckoned there would have been 63 here.

"About 30," we learned, had been brought out alive, taken to hospital, some able to walk. Two, still in there, had been certified dead by a doctor.

Arguing fiercely that it *must* be possible to reach *that* room or *that*, where the fire didn't yet show, Henry dived straight into the house. The sparks danced about him; he vanished behind fallen, flickering timbers.

It was five anxious minutes before we saw him again, on the stairs, helping two firemen undo a knot in the hose they were playing up the liftshaft. Their figures stood up darkly against the evil red light—three men walking unharmed in the midst of the burning fiery furnace . . .

Before we had begun to think that this night could be nearly done—so timeless seemed its incidents, so endless the treadmill of its grim routine—we looked up . . . and the light in the sky was not all from the fires.

The chill dawn wind fluttered burned paper in our faces. Already men were sweeping up the crunching glass. A big lorry switched off its lights as it stole past us: "That's the street-barriers arriving," said Henry.

As thousands have said after a bad raid night, Henry said, "It doesn't seem so bad by daylight, does it?"

There was time to visit his snug post, where a kitten played perilously with the iodine that was being dabbed on a warden's cut hands; time to relax in a canteen over a cup of tea . . .

London experienced one of the worst air raids of the war on the night of April 16, when an indiscriminate bombing attack was made on the city. As usual the Civil Defence services worked magnificently; above, a party of A.R.P. workers are seen bringing a casualty out of the debris of a wrecked block of flats. *Photo, Sport & General*

Our Diary of the War

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1941 *595th day*

Air.—R.A.F. successfully attacked enemy shipping off Dutch coast. Brest bombed.

War against Italy.—R.A.F. made heavy attacks on enemy troops and material in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania. Benghazi and Tripoli raided during night of 18–19, and on 19–20 Derna, Benghazi and Gazala.

Home.—London suffered heavy night attack, casualties and damage being severe. Two raiders destroyed.

Over 300,000 women of 1920 class registered for service under the Employment Order.

Balkan War.—Greek and Imperial troops continued planned withdrawal, covered by rearguard action. Despite enormous losses, Germans pushed up reinforcements.

Athens stated that in Kalabaka area Germans failed to force passes.

General.—Announced in London that Imperial forces have arrived in Basra to open up lines of communication through Iraq.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20 *596th day*

Sea.—H.M. minesweeper Bassett destroyed two Messerschmitts. H.M. yacht Torrent reported lost.

Air.—Daylight attacks on shipping off Dutch coast. Supply ship sunk off Norway.

Night raids on Cologne, Düsseldorf, Aachen and several aerodromes. Oil stores at Rotterdam and docks at Dunkirk, Ostend and Brest were also bombed.

War against Italy.—Further enemy tank attack against Tobruk repulsed. R.A.F. bombed Tripoli during night of 20–21.

Reported that columns advancing on Dessie had fought with enemy holding covering positions.

Home.—Enemy day activity over coasts of Kent and N.E. Scotland.

Balkan War.—During night of 20–21 R.A.F. heavily attacked enemy-occupied aerodromes in northern Greece.

At least 22 enemy aircraft shot down in air battle over Athens.

Greek forces in the Epirus and Macedonia began negotiations for capitulation.

MONDAY, APRIL 21 *597th day*

Sea.—Navy heavily bombarded Tripoli while R.A.F. supported with bombing attacks. Great damage done to port and shipping.

Admiralty announced that H.M. submarine Tetrarch had sunk fully laden tanker bound for Tripoli.

Air.—Coastal Command aircraft attacked docks at Le Havre.

War against Italy.—Patrol activity reported at Sollum. R.A.F. made heavy attacks on aerodromes at Derna and Gazala. Motor transport at Bardia and Capuzzo bombed and machine-gunned.

In Abyssinia British troops occupied important position covering Dessie.

Home.—Small-scale day activity over S.E. England. Heavy night attack on Plymouth. Bombs also fell in East Anglia. Two raiders destroyed over Plymouth and two others near French coast.

Balkan War.—Withdrawal of Imperial and Greek forces to new positions almost completed. Movement covered by brilliant delaying action of Anzac troops. Enemy suffered heavy losses.

Athens reported bombing of two Greek Red Cross ships, Hesperus, which was sunk, and Ellenis, damaged.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22 *598th day*

Sea.—Admiralty announced torpedoing of three enemy ships in Mediterranean.

Free French naval H.Q. announced that submarine Minerve had torpedoed large tanker off Norway.

Air.—Daylight attack on supply ship off Norway and a minesweeper. Two night raids on Brest.

War against Italy.—During night of 21–22 Australian troops made two successful raids on Tobruk, capturing about 450 prisoners.

Air battle over Tobruk in which enemy lost four 'planes.

Malta had its worst night raid; heavy damage but few casualties.

Home.—Some daylight activity, mainly in S.E. England. Another heavy night raid on Plymouth. South coast town and other places also bombed. Enemy machine destroyed in Channel.

Balkan War.—Empire Forces now occupying new defensive positions south of Lamia. Contact maintained with Greeks whose left flank is in danger from German thrust across Pindus Mts.

German aircraft repeatedly raided the Piraeus, Eleusis, Megara and district of Attika. Hospital ship Ponikos attacked.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23 *599th day*

Sea.—Admiralty announced that H.M. armed merchant cruiser Rajputana had been sunk by torpedo.

Air.—Daylight attacks on targets in N.W. Germany and shipping off Dutch coast. At night heavy bombs on sea raiders in Brest docks. Le Havre attacked.

War against Italy.—R.A.F. attacked Derna and other targets. Eight enemy aircraft destroyed over Tobruk.

Heavy raids on Benghazi and Tripoli during night of 22-23, and on aerodrome at Calato (Rhodes).

Reported that Italians defending Dessie had been routed. Maji, near Sudan border, occupied.

Home.—Daylight activity mainly near East Coast. Night bombers again attacked Plymouth. Two raiders destroyed.

Balkan War.—Empire Forces consolidating new defensive positions at Thermopylae. Announced that King of the Hellenes and Government had gone to Crete.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24 *600th day*

Sea.—Admiralty announced that H.M. submarine Urge had sunk 10,000-ton tanker.

Air.—Enemy tanker set on fire off Norway. Night attacks on Kiel and Wilhelmshaven.

War against Italy.—Attack on Tobruk repulsed with heavy enemy losses. R.A.F. bombed mechanized units and aerodromes in Cyrenaica. Night raids on Tripoli and Benghazi.

Home.—Bombs fell during day in Kent. Night raids on southern England and East Anglia. Two enemy aircraft destroyed.

Balkan War.—German aircraft raided districts of the Piraeus, Aegina, Eleusis and Megara. Two hospital ships, Polikros and Andros, sunk. Corinth bombed.

Empire Forces continuing ordered withdrawal.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25 *601st day*

Air.—Daylight sweep over Holland. Supply ship hit, railways damaged, iron and steel works at Ymuiden bombed. At night raids centred on Kiel. Berlin, Bremerhaven, Rotterdam and many other targets also attacked.

War against Italy.—R.A.F. bombed oil tanker and other vehicles between Derna and Barce. Night raid on Benghazi.

Home.—Night attacks on towns in N.E. England and on one in Northern Ireland.

Balkan War.—Germans claimed that Pass of Thermopylae had been captured; also that troops had crossed from Thessaly on to island of Euboea, and thence to mainland.

General.—British troops reported in Mosul.

Lord Gort appointed Governor and C.-in-C. Gibraltar, succeeding Sir Clive Liddell.

SATURDAY APRIL 26 *602nd day*

Air.—Three supply ships off Norway attacked. Big night attack on Hamburg. Emden, Bremerhaven and Cuxhaven, and docks at Le Havre and Ymuiden.

War against Italy.—In Sollum area enemy crossed frontier at several points. In Abyssinia British captured Dessie.

Home.—Merseyside attacked at night.

Balkan War.—Empire troops fighting tenacious rearguard action N.W. of Athens. German parachutists captured Corinth.

REGISTRATION OF WOMEN for war service began on Saturday, April 19, 1941. Above are some of those born in 1920 waiting to register at a Westminster Labour Exchange. Over 300,000 women registered, and some of them were married on that morning and went on to the exchange to register. A large number of young women in later categories did not wait to be called up but enlisted in one of the uniformed services, the W.R.N.S., the A.T.S. and the W.A.A.F., during the week-end. *Photo, Central Press*